

species are weak when compared with those of the typical woodpecker.

Dr. Sharp held that this deviation from the woodpecker type in the structure of the bird was due to the change of habit; the change of function preceding and causing the change in structure, and not, as was suggested, that the curve in the bill leads to the change in the habit.

This change in the species could hardly be looked upon as being caused by anything but the direct will or desire of the individual itself, as the surrounding conditions, climate, general character of food, enemies, etc., remained the same, as far as is known. He concluded by saying that the changes were as yet so slight that the species could hardly be looked upon as degenerate, but was probably tending to become so.

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NOVEMBER 26.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS, in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

A paper entitled "Catalogue of the Owls, Strigae, in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia" by Witmer Stone, was presented for publication.

The following were elected members:—

James F. Sullivan, Thomas M. Lightfoot, C. D. Lippincott, Minford Levis, M. D., Samuel Stryker Kneass, M. D., and Mrs. Elizabeth S. Bladen.

N. M. Romanoff (Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia), was elected a correspondent.

The following was ordered to be printed:—